

Message Text

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FOR IO/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG APER UNOG

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AT UN

REF: HURT-ARENDS LETTER OF NOVEMBER 7

1. AMCIT MICHAEL CLARK, HEAD OF PRESS SECTION IN OPI, CAME IN TO SEE PAO AND IN LONG, RAMBLING CONVERSATION REPORTED THE FOLLOWING. HE WAS VISIBLY DISTRAIT AND APPEARED TO FEEL THAT HIS SITUATION, WHICH HAD BEEN BAD SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF CHARLES BOURBONNIERE AS HEAD OF OPI, HAD NOW WORSENERED TO THE EXTENT THAT HE COULD NO LONGER STAY IN HIS JOB.

2. CLARK SAID THAT BOURBONNIERE HAD FAILED TO REVERSE THE PARALYSIS OF OPI WHICH HAD SET IN DURING THE LONG ILLNESS OF BOURBONNIERE'S PREDECESSOR, ERWIN BAUMGARTEN. THE SEVERAL FUNCTIONARIES IN THE PRESS SECTIONS, WITH THE ACTIVE OR PASSIVE ENCOURAGEMENT OF BOURBONNIERE, HAVE INCREASINGLY BEEN GOING THEIR OWN WAY AND IGNORING HIS AUTHORITY, CLARK CHARGED. THE PRINCIPAL CULPRITS IN HIS MIND ARE MME. BEREZHNYAYA, A SOVIET IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO MANAGED TO REMOVE HERSELF AND HER SLOT FROM THE PRESS SECTION, AND FRANCIS COOK, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE EUROPEAN OFFICES OF THE U.N. ANOTHER BLOW WAS THE ASSIGNMENT BY BOURBONNIERE OF A HIGH-LEVEL CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR, FOR WHOM CLARK HAD LOBBIED AND WHOSE POSITION WAS APPROVED BY THE RECENT UNGA, TO THE NEWLY-

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CREATED GERMAN-LANGUAGE INFORMATION OFFICE. THINGS HAVE

REACHED THE STAGE WHERE CLARK FEELS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO RUN THE PRESS SECTION EFFECTIVELY.

3. A FEW DAYS AGO CLARK WENT IN TO SEE PAUL COIDAN, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE UN'S EUROPEAN OFFICE, TO DISCUSS MATTERS. HE SAID HE GOT A SYMPATHETIC HEARING, BUT FOUND NO WILLINGNESS TO TACKLE THE ALLEGED DISARRAY IN OPI. HOWEVER, COIDAN OFFERED HIM A TRANSFER: CLARK WOULD BE SENT TO BANGKOK AS HEAD OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE THERE AND THE BANGKOK INCUMBENT, A GHANAIAAN, WOULD BE BROUGHT TO GENEVA TO TAKE CLARK'S JOB. IF THERE'S NO IMPROVEMENT IN JOB CONDITIONS HERE, CLARK IS WILLING TO MAKE THE SWITCH, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ONE AMERICAN POSITION IN OPI BEING LOST. OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS OF EVEN GREATER CONCERN TO US.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT BOURBONNIERE WISHES TO LEAVE GENEVA AND RETURN TO A DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT AT U.N. NEW YORK. WE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT IN THAT EVENT THE PRESENT DEPUTY, FRENCH NATIONAL M.G. GREGOIRE, WOULD SUCCEED BOURBONNIERE AND THAT CLARK WOULD MOVE UP TO BECOME DEPUTY. HOWEVER, CLARK SAID IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED AT THE PALAIS THAT THE TOP JOB WOULD GO TO LEILA DOSS, AN EGYPTIAN WHO IS CHIEF OF INFORMATION AT UNIDO IN VIENNA. GREGOIRE THEN WOULD REMAIN DEPUTY AND -- IF THE CLARK-BANGKOK SWITCH GOES THROUGH -- THERE WOULD BE NO POTENTIAL OPENINGS FOR AMCITS. PARENTHETICALLY, CLARK VIEWS THE POSSIBILITY OF DOSS COMING HERE AS THE WORST POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT, BOTH FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE FUNCTIONING OF OPI AND THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST.

5. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT AND USUN MAY HAVE ON THESE MATTERS. CLARK HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE ASK DEPARTMENT TO WEIGH IN AT U.N. HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK IN ORDER TO SET THINGS RIGHT AT OPI GENEVA SO HE COULD STAY ON. THIS WE LEAVE TO DEPARTMENT'S JUDGMENT. THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS HOW WE PRESERVE THE AMERICAN SLOT IN OPI, AND OF THAT WE SHOULD MAKE A FIGHT IF NECESSARY. MISSION GENEVA NOW HAS SIX QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THAT JOB, INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY GORDON C. ACKERMAN, FORMERLY OF CBS AND TIME-LIFE WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN INQUIRY FROM EMBASSY PARIS. DALE

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